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MAY 22 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT   : Discussion of Plans for Operation Alert 1957 at
                 the Cabinet Meeting to Be Held 24 May 1957.

1. This memorandum contains material for your information con-
cerning the plans for government-wide participation in Operation Alert
1957 which will be discussed at the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for
24 May 1957, pursuant to Cabinet Paper CI-57-44/1 dated 20 May 1957.

2. The objectives of the exercise are to improve the national
readiness to meet situations short of general war and general war it-
self, to meet civil defense survival and recovery needs, to maintain
the functioning of government at all levels under emergency conditions,
to train personnel to think along these lines, and to determine what
aspects of preparedness programs need the greatest emphasis during the
coming year.

3. The exercise this year breaks down into the following phases:

   a. 3 June - 12 July 1957

      A period of growing tensions and involvement in
hostilities short of general war. During this period
the exercise will be conducted in place.

   b. 12 - 14 July 1957

      A period of attack warning, attack, and civil de-
fense emergency actions.

   c. 15 - 19 July 1957

      A period (beginning D plus 15) of mobilizing sur-
viving resources and initiating action for rehabilitation
and recovery. During this period the exercise will be
conducted at relocation sites. (It should be noted that
the exercise time will be telescoped on the night of
14 July 1957 by moving up to D plus 15 for the opening of
business on 15 July 1957.)

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d. <u>19 July 1957</u>

A period of critiques, by the agencies themselves in the morning and at Cabinet level in the afternoon.

4. A "Briefing Guide" containing all of the assumptions and major actions to be taken will be prepared by the Office of Defense Mobilization and will be issued to all participating departments and agencies. This Briefing Guide will be used for the purposes of the exercise rather than the actual Mobilization Plan C and Mobilization Plan D-Minus. Certain hypothetical international assumptions have been developed by a committee composed of representatives of the Office of Defense Mobilization, the Department of State (Policy Planning Staff), and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Strategic Plans). At the request of the Office of Defense Mobilization, these assumptions are being checked by our Agency (███████████) as to their plausibility, but not as to their probability. There will be no test of military actions related to actual war plans.

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5. During the period of the exercise commencing 3 June 1957 and ending 14 July 1957, certain situation assumptions will be introduced to the Executive Branch from time to time by Mr. Max Rabb, the Cabinet Secretary, and will be distributed in the form of Cabinet Papers which will become agenda items for Cabinet Meetings at which time the necessary actions of the respective department heads (and certain agency heads) will be discussed.

6. The President has indicated to officials of the Office of Defense Mobilization that he will not convene a Cabinet Meeting during the week 15 - 19 July 1957, but that it is probable that he will convene at least one meeting of the National Security Council during that period.

Signed

L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

EPO/MWB:rvh (22 May 1957)

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